

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:  
  
an image sensing unit for reading two-dimensional partial areas ~~divided~~ into which a specific region ~~thereinto~~ is divided;  
  
a processor for variously setting a reading sequence for the reading of a plurality of the partial areas; and  
  
a controller for controlling the image sensing unit so as to read the plurality of the partial areas in the set reading sequence.
  
2. (Original) The image reading apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the plurality of two-dimensional partial areas aligns in a vertical direction and a horizontal direction as sort of a matrix.
  
3. (Original) The image reading apparatus as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the image sensing unit reads the plurality of partial areas sequentially in a horizontal direction or a vertical direction.

4. (Original) The image reading apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the image sensing unit includes an area sensor for receiving an optical image and converting the image to image data, and an optical system for directing an optical image of the partial area of a fixed original in the specific region to the area sensor, and wherein the controller moves the optical system relative to the specific region in accordance with the set reading sequence.

5. (Previously Presented) The image reading apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the processor sets the reading sequence based on instructions from a connected output device for the output of a read image.

6. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the output device is an image forming apparatus for outputting read images on a sheet, and the instructions is are related to the orientation of the sheet on which the image to be formed.

7. (Original) An image reading apparatus comprising:

an image sensing element for receiving an optical image in a two-dimensional section and converting the image to image data;

a mechanism for sequentially directing optical images of a plurality of sections, into which a specific region is divided, to the image sensing element one by one in a predetermined sequence; and

a controller for variously controlling the predetermined sequence.

8. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the image sensing ~~unit~~ element includes an area sensor.

9. (Original) The image reading apparatus as claimed in Claim 7, further comprising a document table for placing a document, wherein the specific region corresponds to a document placed on the document table.

10. (Original) The image reading apparatus as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the mechanism includes an optical system for projecting the optical image in the specific region and sequentially directs the optical images by moving the optical system relative to the image sensing element and the document table.

11. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the mechanism includes an optical system for projecting the optical image in the specific region and sequentially directs the optical images by moving the optical system and the ~~optical system~~ image sensing element relative to the document table.

12. (Currently Amended) An image input/output system comprising:  
an input device for inputting a plurality of partial images of a document in a predetermined sequence;  
an output device for outputting an entire image of the document by pasting the plurality of partial ~~image~~ images to each other onto a sheet,

wherein the output device sequentially outputs image from one edge of the sheet to an opposed edge thereof, and the predetermined sequence depends on orientation of the sheet onto which the image is to be outputted.

13. (Original) The image input/output system as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the input device includes a document table on which a document is placed, and the input device inputs the partial images from above the placed document.

14. (Currently Amended) The image input/output system as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the previously inputted partial images ~~is~~ are sequentially outputted before the input of all of the partial ~~image~~ images of the entire document is completed.

15. (Currently Amended) The image input/output system as claimed in Claim 12, further comprising a an operation panel for receiving an instruction, which ~~specify~~ specifies the predetermined sequence, from an operator.

16. (Original) The image input/output system as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the output device includes an image forming portion for forming the inputted images onto the sheets having different orientations.

Claim 17 (Cancelled)

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

The attached sheet of drawing includes changes to Fig. 4. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig. 4. In Fig. 4, the spelling of IMAGE in element 104 is corrected.